Spontaneous Functioning and Individual Initiative

There was this European couple from the Far East who came to visit Shri. Yakaraj for about a week. Both had been interested in metaphysics for several years and had done their home work. There was a touch of tiredness, almost of frustation in their outlook and general behaviour which clearly showed what was subsequently confirmed: they had had no clear apprehension of their true nature inspite of their search over a long period of time during which they had travelled a lot and had sought guidance from a number of Gurus with zeal but without success - now, they were perhaps wondering, is this going to be another exercise in futility and frustation?!

After they had given their bio-data in answer to his query, Shri. Yakaraj looked at them steadily for a few moments and said, "Please understand that I have nothing to give you at all. All that I shall do is to put before you a spiritual mirror to show your true nature. If the meaning of what I say is understood clearly, intuitively - not merely the words - and accepted with the deepest conviction and the most urgent immediacy, no further 'liberation' will be necessary. This understanding is not a matter of time - indeed it is prior to the concept of time - and when it takes place, it happens suddenly almost as a shock of understanding: because in effect it means a sudden cessation in the process of duration, a split-second when the is the process of the functioning of the time process is suspended as integration takes place with what is prior to relativity, as absolute apprehension occurs. Thereafter, once this seed of apprehension has taken root, the process of relative deliverance from the imagined bondage may take its own course in the process of duration.

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"The key word in the process of understanding what I say is 'spontaneity'. The manifestation of the entire universe is like a dream, exactly similar to the personal dreams - the cosmic dream exactly like the microcosmic dreams of an individual: all objects are dreamed objects, all are appearances in consciousness, whether it is the dream arising spontaneously as an individual dream during the night or it is the dream in which we are all living. All objects, all appearances are dreamed by sentient beings in consciousness.

"The sentient beings, therefore, are both dreamed figures and they are dreaming! There is no single dreamer, as such. Each current dreaming of the universe is in the consciousness which is within a particular psycho-somatic apparatus, which is the medium through which the perceiving and the interpreting go on, and which is mistaken as an individual entity.

"You have no control over the objects in your personal dream, including the object that 'you' are in the dream, everything is spontaneous; and yet you are every object in your personal dream can be nothing other than you. In the life-dream, too, all objects, even if they are opposed to one another in the dream, can only be WHAT-YOU-ARE. All functioning, all action in life, therefore, can only be spontaneous action because there is no entity to perform any action.

"Finally, remember that any dreaming of any kind must necessarily be phenomenal, an appearance in consciousness when consciousness is 'awake', that is, consciousness is conscious of itself. When consciousness is not conscious of itself, there can be no dreaming, only deep sleep."

At this stage, there was a query from the visitor. His point was: if all of us

are only dreamed figures without any ~~independent~~ independent choice of decision and action, why should we be concerned with bondage or liberation; why should we come to Shri. Maharaj at all?

Shri. Maharaj laughed and said: "You seem to have arrived at the right conclusion in the wrong way! ~~If~~ you are perfectly correct if you mean that you are now convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that the object which you have identified yourself with is really only a phenomenon totally devoid of any substance, independence or autonomy, merely a dreamed appearance in someone else's consciousness, and that, therefore, for such a mere shadow without substance there can never be any question of either bondage or liberation - and consequently there is no need at all for you to come and listen to me. ~~Not so~~ If this is so, you are not only correct but already liberated. BUT, if you mean that you should continue to visit me BECAUSE you cannot accept that you are only a dreamed figure without any independence or autonomy, then I am afraid you have not even begun your search, and, indeed, so long as there is an ~~such~~ independent entity seeking liberation, he will never find it.

"Look at it this simple way: what is the basis of any action? NEED. You eat because there is a need for it; your body evacuates because there is a need for it. You visit me because you feel the need of visiting me and listening to what I say. When there is need, action follows spontaneously without any intervention of any doer. Who feels the need? Consciousness feels the need through the medium of the psycho-somatic apparatus and gets the need satisfied. If you think you are the apparatus, is it not a case of mistaken identity, assuming the burden of bondage and seeking liberation?!